

**Second day of the Thirteenth Meeting
MC(13) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8****DECISION No. 17/05
STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OSCE**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its full adherence to the norms, principles and commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security agreed since the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe,

Recognizing the role of the Organization as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter,

Recalling that all OSCE commitments apply equally, and to all participating States,

Emphasizing the role of the Organization as a forum for political dialogue, as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and as a norm-setting body with its institutions and field operations, as well as its instruments and mechanisms,

Reaffirming the importance of all three dimensions of the OSCE approach to security as well as its cross-dimensional character,

Determined to strengthen confidence between participating States and to reinforce the sense of common purpose, by means of inclusive political dialogue on an equal footing, as well as assistance provided in a co-operative manner,

Recognizing the need to further focus the work of the Organization in those areas, where it has comparative advantages and can add value, while retaining its comprehensive approach to security,

Bearing in mind the need to ensure that basic priorities and action plans have a long-term perspective and are in line with the evolving security environment,

Determined to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization operating on the basis of sovereign equality of States and of decision-making by consensus, in order to improve transparency and to foster the sense of ownership of all participating States,

Determined to make an effective gender mainstreaming an integral part of all policies, activities and programmes in the OSCE,

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decision No. 16/04 on the Establishment of a Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE,

Commending the Panel for its determination and efforts, resulting in the report titled Common Purpose, Towards a More Effective OSCE (CIO.GAL/100/05 of 27 June 2005), and taking into account recommendations contained therein,

Taking also into account other contributions, including those by the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the outcome of the High-Level Consultations held in Vienna on 12 and 13 September 2005, as set out by the Chairmanship in its Perception Paper (CIO.GAL/132/05 of 16 September 2005),

Considering that further efforts are needed for appropriate action on recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons,

1. Tasks the Permanent Council with continuing work on the basis of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and the outcome of the High-Level Consultations and reporting to the Ministerial Council in 2006 on:

- Rules of procedure;
- Improving the consultative process, including considering a committee structure;
- Considering ways to improve the planning and efficiency of OSCE conferences;
- Strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization's activities, including their budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, and their evaluation and assessment;
- Considering ways to further enhance the role of the Secretary General, while supporting him in the full use of his mandate, including through further strengthening the co-operation with the heads of institutions and of field operations;
- Modernizing the Secretariat, taking into account also proposals by the Secretary General and participating States, to further improve its capacity to support the Chairmanship-in-Office and the participating States and to co-ordinate OSCE activities;
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE institutions and field operations;
- Examining the possibility of providing the OSCE with legal status and granting privileges and immunities, taking into consideration advice of legal experts;
- Further improving the programme planning, so that it may better reflect the Organization's priorities;

- Considering ways of further improving the professionalism of OSCE personnel and the management of its human resources, with due regard to the gender and geographical balance;
 - Considering the possibility of thematic missions in an OSCE-wide or subregional context;
2. Tasks the ODIHR to submit, for discussion, to the next Ministerial Council, a report on:
- Implementation of existing commitments,
 - Possible supplementary commitments,
 - Ways of strengthening and furthering its election-related activities,
 - Improving the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States,
- taking into account and answering questions put by participating States and in close consultation with them.

MC.DEC/17/05
6 December 2005
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Moldova

“In connection with the Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, the Delegation of Moldova would like to make an interpretative statement on behalf of the GUAM member States under paragraph 79, Chapter 6, of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

Having joined others on the consensus regarding the adoption of the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, the GUAM countries consider the establishment of the special mechanism within the OSCE dealing with issues regarding the settlement of unresolved conflicts (as foreseen by the GUAM position document circulated under PC.DEL/1223/05/Rev.1) as a necessary component of the activities to be undertaken for “strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization’s activities, including their budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, and their evaluation and assessment”, as fixed in the fourth operative tiret of the above-mentioned Decision.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/17/05
6 December 2005
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS

By the Delegation of Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, the Delegation of the Republic of Belarus has been authorized to make the following interpretative statement with regard to paragraph 2 of that decision.

The fact that Belarus has joined the consensus on this decision does not mean that it agrees with the working methods of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The Belarusian delegation proceeds from the understanding that when preparing the report for the Ministerial Council meeting in 2006 the ODIHR will take into account all the comments and proposals made and will also answer all the questions of all participating States without exception.

Belarus believes that the report of the ODIHR to the Ministerial Council should contain as integral elements:

- A comparative analysis of election laws and practices in all OSCE participating States;
- A list of objective criteria for the assessment of elections;
- A methodology for election monitoring, based on the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons and aimed at ensuring objectivity, transparency, professionalism and equal treatment of all participating States.

In the event that the ODIHR report does not meet these requirements, Belarus will not consider itself bound by its conclusions and proposals, and reserves the right to raise the question of the Office’s work again in the political bodies of the OSCE.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”